

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 9687-4 CII (188947)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:	Patent application of	:	
	Jack T. Baker	:	
		:	Group Art Unit:
Serial No.:	Not yet assigned	:	Not yet assigned
		:	
Filed:	Concurrently herewith	:	Examiner:
		:	Not yet assigned
For:	SLOTTED SCREEN FOR DIGESTER	:	

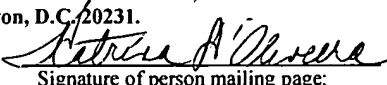
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement being submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56. This statement is being filed concurrently with the application to which it relates, and prior to the issuance of an office action with respect to this application. No fee should be due for the filing of this statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1).

If any fee is deemed to be applicable to the filing of this document, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0573 and credit any overcharge to the same deposit account.

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Signature of person mailing page:	
Katrina D'Oliveira	
Type or print name of person	

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/193,500. All of the references listed below and on the attached PTO Form 1449 substitute are of record on the earlier application. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.98(d)(1) and (2), and pursuant to the Waiver published in the Official Gazette dated August 5, 2003 (1276 OG 55), copies of these references are not filed herewith.

The examiner is requested to review each of the references cited below and on the attached Form PTO-1449 substitute and make them of record during the prosecution of this application as required by M.P.E.P. §609. The examiner is requested to initial the duplicate PTO-1449 form to acknowledge consideration and entry of each of these references into this application.

U.S. PATENT REFERENCES

4,795,560	5,662,775	6,119,867	6,284,145
5,069,752	5,849,151	6,129,816	6,340,805
5,236,554	6,039,841	6,165,323	6,344,112

U.S. Patents Nos. 6,039,841 (Hermesmi) and 6,165,323 (Shearer) show digester screens with slots rather than the conventional circular holes. The slots are straight, and are at an angle of about 45° to the length direction of the digester. Shearer shows slots of tapered width, but widening only towards the end of the slots that is both downstream with respect to the liquor flow through the screen and radially outwards from the interior of the digester. Fig. 16 of Shearer shows slots that are parallel-sided at the upstream, inner side of the screen plate and widen out towards the downstream, outer side of the screen plate.

Shearer's intention is apparently that the narrowest point of the slots shall be at the upstream end, so that any solid particle that can enter the slot at all will find itself in a widening taper, and will not become lodged within the thickness of the screen plate. Any particle larger than that will be lodged in the mouth of the slot, projecting into the interior of the digester, and is apparently to be dislodged by the wiping action of the mass of chips in the digester moving past the slotted screen. This wiping action will apparently be enhanced by the straight slots oblique to the direction of movement of the mass of chips. Any lodged

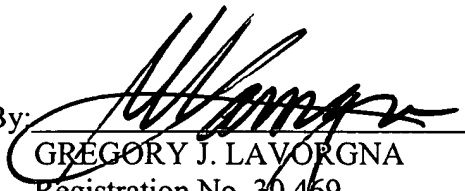
particle is apparently to be dragged along its slot, and in the process is to be either lifted out of the slot, or forced in past the narrow mouth of the slot and to escape through the widening part of the slot. This mechanism is only effective when the screen plate is positioned with the narrow ends of the slot towards the interior of the digester, and when the liquid flow through the screen is outward from the interior of the digester.

U.S. Patents Nos. 4,795,560 (Chupka et al.) and 6,284,145 (Andersson) show slotted screen plates for dewatering of pulp. These plates have slots an order of magnitude narrower than the digester screens of the present invention. The widest slot mentioned is 0.8 mm, at col. 2, line 49 of Andersson. (A figure of 0.35" appears at col. 7 line 6 of Chupka, but a comparison with col. 6, lines 39-59, and especially line 42, suggests this is a misprint for 0.035". Certainly, Chupka discloses no utility for the wider slot.) Chupka shows curved slots (see Fig. 8 and col. 7, lines 60-63, apparently in order to display the "versatility" of his laser cutting device. Chupka does not suggest that such slots have any practical merit. Andersson has serpentine or zig-zagging slots in order to screen out stiff fibers or bundles of fibers ("shives") up to 5 mm long.

This Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed as a representation that the cited references are material or that no better art exists.

Respectfully submitted,

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SUBSTITUTE FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 9687-4C11 (188947)	SERIAL NO. Not yet assigned
	APPLICANT: Jack T. Baker	
	FILING DATE Concurrently herewith	GROUP Not yet assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (IF APPROPRIATE)
	AA	4,795,560	01/89	Chupka et al	210	497.01	08/87
	AB	5,069,752	12/91	Richter	162	37	04/90
	AC	5,236,554	08/93	Greenwood	162	238	08/91
	AD	5,662,775	09/97	Marcoccia et al.	162	41	06/95
	AE	5,849,151	12/98	Marcoccia et al.	162	42	05/97
	AF	6,039,841	03/00	Hernesniemi	162	251	12/97
	AG	6,119,867	09/00	Ljokkoi et al.	209	273	05/98
	AH	6,129,816	10/00	Sheerer et al.	162	237	10/97
	AI	6,165,323	12/00	Shearer	162	251	02/99
	AJ	6,284,145	09/01	Andersson	210	767	12/98
	AK	6,340,805	01/02	Ljokkoi	219	58	05/98
	AL	6,344,112	02/02	Hernesniemi	162	251	10/99

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	AM							
	AN							
	AO							

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AP	
AQ	
AR	
AS	
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	